(Qty. in Thousand M.T.
Value Rs. Crores)

	Qty.	Value	% share to the total import of country
2000-2001	83364	78025	33.8
2001-2002	85715	67646	27.6
2002-2003 (April—Jan.)	74266	66888	28.8

Production of battery operated scooters and cycles

2485. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission for the production and marketing of battery operated scooters and cycles, which are completely pollution free, in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when such battery operated scooters and cycles are likely to be available in the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Being a fully delicensed activity, production of battery operated scooters and cycles does not require any license or permission from the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Project Export Promotion Council

2486. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Project Export Promotion Council and also create an export development fund to access the global market;

(b) if so, whether this was one of the recommendations of the Task Force on Project Export constituted by the PMO;

(c) whether any modalities for the Council has been considered;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent this Project Export Council will finalise the funds utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Government constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade and Investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs to give recommendations on export promotion of project exports. The Report of the Task Force submitted in January, 2003 has *inter alia* recommended establishment of a Project Export Promotion Council and also creation of Export Development Fund.

(c) and (d) The Task Force has recommended that the Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) will act as an apex organisation for enhancing project exports. Regarding modalities of PEPC, Task Force has recommended that, PEPC will be an autonomous body and the main function of the body would be to create an effective synergy among Indian Missions, Government of India, Exim India, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), Industry Associations and Commercial Banks to ensure early identification of projects, intelligence collection, maintenance of centralised database, encouragement to consortia approach etc. Task Force has further recommended that a Director General, who would be a permanent invitee of the High Powered Standing Committee, would head PEPC. The PEPC will also include divisions to handle Consultancy and Technology Development. As per the recommendations of Task Force, the equity contribution for creation of this body would come from Government, Industry/Industry Associations and Institutions.

(e) Under the Exim Bank Act of Exim India, Government of India has appointed Exim India to administer the Export Development Fund (EDF) on behalf of Government of India. With a view to enable Exim India to provide long term funding on competitive soft terms for project exports, the Task Force has suggested that Government of India may consider funding the Export Development Fund (EDF) in US Dollars over a period. According to the Task Force, EDF could

be an appropriate vehicle for making available substantial funds for the identified purpose of supporting project exports.

Benefits of North East Industrial Policy

2487. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's North East Industrial Policy has benefited only two States out of seven;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for investment in North East in last three years and the number of people got employment out of that capital investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government announced a new North-East Industrial Policy (NEIP) on 24th December, 1997 for promoting industrialization in the North-Eastern region. The NEIP is applicable to the seven States included in the North-Eastern region at that time, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The NEIP has been beneficial for all the seven States of the North East as evident from the details of subsidies disbursed under various Subsidy Schemes, total loans sanctioned and employment generated in the North East by NEDFi, a Special Purpose Vehicle created for the North East. Details and given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of benefits of NEIP

A. Subsidies disbursed by NEDFi (as on 31.3.2003)

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Transport Subsidy Scheme	Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme	Central Interest Subsidy Scheme
1. Arunachal Pradesh	450	0	0
2. Assam	5299	951	91.7
3. Manipur	0	0	0
4. Meghalaya	3234	357	41.26
5. Mizoram	1064	0	0